SPRING 2023 RELIGION COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

IDH3119 Ethics, Religion, Superheroes Ross Moret
This course uses superhero mythology as a lens through which to view the historical development of ethical norms in the United States. Students unpack the ideological meanings of these stories while thinking critically about the political, historical, philosophical, psychological, and religious ideas that are reflected in the mythology. Special attention is paid to race, gender, and religion. Ethics and Diversity.

IDH3611 Civil Rights and Black Power Ross Moret
This course explores the ways that appeals to religious concepts and identities have influenced racial relations and politics in America, with a focus on the legacies of the Civil Rights and Black Power movements. Prerequisite: admission to the honors program. Diversity.

IDS 2679 Need and Greed Steven Lane
This course examines the ethics of money, wealth, and poverty from the perspective of religious communities. Ethics.

REL1300 Introduction to World Religions Prof Durdin & Staff
This course is an introduction to the academic study of the major religions of the world. The course will cover the religious traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. In the process of comparing the religions of the world, it will be the responsibility of each student to think critically about the historical evolution, systems of belief, ritual practices, institutional developments and cultural expressions of each religious tradition. A range of reading materials and writing assignments have been chosen to provide a framework within which to engage a variety of religious issues and to understand the significance and relevance of religion in world history. Meets LS Cultural Practice (LS-CUL), and Diversity: Cross Cultural Studies (DIV-XCC). This course is also offered online.

REL2121 Religion in the United States Prof. Corrigan, Hazard & Staff
This course is designed to introduce students to the major themes, figures, and directions of religion in American history, with an eye toward ways that social and cultural contexts have shaped the religious experience of Americans in different places and times. Since it is impossible to cover all religious traditions in one semester, this course will consist of both a general survey of religion in the U.S. and a series of case studies designed to provide a closer look into some of the religious groups and ideas that have shaped this country. Meets LS History requirements as well as Diversity in Western Experience (DIV-YWE).

REL2210 Introduction to the Old Testament David Edwards & Staff
The word “Bible” is derived from the Greek word “biblia” which means “books”. While revered as a single book, the Bible is a collection of many texts that were composed by different authors at different times for different reasons. This course is an introduction to the critical study of this assorted literature and the world in which it was produced. We will examine individual texts of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament within their historical contexts while taking into consideration other methodological approaches such as literary criticism and theology. Meets LS Cultural Practice (LS-CUL) and Diversity in western Experience (DIV-YWE).
REL2240  Introduction to the New Testament  Prof. Kelley & Staff
This course introduces students to the writings of the New Testament in the context of the historical
development of early Christianity.  *Meets LS Cultural Practice (LS-CUL) and Diversity in western Experience (DIV-YWE).*

REL3112  Religion and Fantasy  Staff
This course offers an overview of theological and anti-theological elements in twentieth and
twenty-first century fantasy literature from authors Lewis, Tolkien, Rowling, and Pullman.  *Meets LS Cultural Practice (LS-CUL).*

REL3128  Topics in Amer Religion  Prof. McTighe & Staff
*May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours.*  History.

REL3142  Religion, the Self, and Society  Prof. Day
This course covers interpretation of religious phenomena by the major social theorists of modern
times. The course is divided into two parts: the psychology of religion and the sociology of
religion.

REL3145  Gender and Religion  Prof. McTighe, Williams & Staff
This course considers the impact of gender on religion. Includes cross-cultural studies, theoretical
works, and gender issues within religious traditions.  *Meets LS Cultural Practice (LS-CUL) and Diversity in cross cultural studies (DIV-XCC).*

REL 3152  Religion, Race and Ethnicity  Multiple
This course examines the relation between race, ethnicity and religious beliefs in a cross-cultural context.

REL3170  Religious Ethics  Meng Zhang, Steven Lane & Staff
This course discusses contemporary moral problems such as deception, sexual activities and
relations, war, and the economy from the standpoints of major religious traditions.  *Meets Liberal Studies: Ethics and Social Responsibility (ETH/SR) and Diversity in cross cultural studies (DIV-XCC).*

REL3171  Topics in Ethics  Multiple
This course considers themes and problems in modern ethics. The class format will include
lecture, discussion, and film.  *Meets Liberal Studies: Ethics and Social Responsibility (ETH/SR).*

REL3178  Religion and Law  John Cole
This course is a survey of how American jurisprudence about the First Amendment has understood
religion, attending to the specific legal and ethical arguments made in the U.S. Supreme Court
opinions and how they intersect with philosophical accounts of the meaning of freedom.  Ethics.

REL 3293  Topics in Biblical Studies  Prof. Kelley
This course focuses on selected topics dealing with biblical writings in their ancient historical
contexts and/or their interpretation in later period.  *Meets Liberal Studies: Cultural Practice (LS-CUL).*
REL3340    The Buddhist Tradition  Prof. Cuevas
This course surveys the Buddhist tradition from its beginnings through the modern period. Some attention to its contemporary forms.  
*Meets Liberal Studies: Cultural Practice (LS-CUL) and Diversity in cross cultural studies (DIV-XCC) requirements.*

REL3367    Islamic Traditions II: Islam up to the Modern World  Prof. Gaiser
This course examines Islam and its adherents from 1300 CE to the present, concentrating on the last two centuries of Islamic history: the period of reform, renewal, and revolution in the wake of Western political and cultural domination. This course investigates a basic question: What happened to different Muslim communities and intellectuals (specifically those in the Arab world, Iran, Turkey, and Africa) as they responded to the challenges posted by "Westernization" and "modernization?" Moreover, it explores the relatively new phenomenon of Islam in America.

REL3431    Critics of Religion  Prof. Kavka
This course is an introduction to the major thinkers and texts in the critique of religion as it developed in the 19th and 20th centuries in the west. Beginning with Schleiermacher, the course moves on to consider the so-called "masters of suspicion"--Feuerbach, Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud. By means of a close examination of central texts, students explore the meaning of a critique of religion, the structure of religious consciousness, the place of religion with respect to other forms of culture, the problem of religion and alienation, and the possibility of a critical faith.

REL3484    New Religious Movements  Prof. McVicar
This course investigates the role of new religious movements (NRMs) in American culture and history.  
*Humanities and Cultural Practice, Diversity.*

REL3505    Christian Tradition  Prof. Dupuigrenet & Staff
This course explores Christianity from its origins and growth in the Mediterranean world, through the Reformations, and into the present day. Students will gain a panoramic view of global Christianities and the ability to apply a range of approaches in studying its growth and diversification. This will facilitate a wide discussion of its contents, context, and contemporary implications.  
*Meets Liberal Studies: Cultural Practice (LS-CUL).*

REL3935    Topics in Buddhism  Prof. Yu
This course focuses on selected topics and themes in the academic study of Buddhism. The course may explore key subjects and theories in Buddhist studies, including philosophy, history, sociology, anthropology, literature, and art history intended to introduce students to the diversity of Buddhist traditions throughout Asia, Europe, and North America and to help them develop critical skills necessary for evaluating a variety of scholarly approaches to the subject.  
*May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours. May be repeated within the same semester.*  
*Humanities and Cultural Practice, Diversity.*

REL3936    Special Topics: Religion  Profs. Kelley, Najm & Durdin
Beyond mainstream ritual practices, a range of emotional, embodied, mystical activities proliferates—from spirit possession, trance, and shamanism to ecstatic healing and prophecy. While public opinion and popular media may deride these practices, they incarnate the deepest longings for and grandest visions of the divine and often anchor the same theologies that condemn them. This course explores such forms of mysticism around the world—in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Our aim is to understand the logics behind these practices that make them sources of
power for practitioners. Because women, the poor, marginal men, sexual minorities, and transgendered persons often play key roles in such movements, issues of politics, economics, gender, and sexuality take center stage. Due to the many ways of explaining mystical experiences, we will compare neurological, psychological, psychiatric, sociological, and theological approaches. The course will take an ethnographic approach, one that sees transcendent experience as immanent in cultural practice.

**REL4044 What is Religion?**  
Prof. Hazard  
This course is a survey of how theorists in the modern era have answered questions about the original essence, and function of religion, as well as an examination of the methods by which religion is studied in a scholarly environment. *Meets Upper-Division Scholarship in Practice (UD-SIP) and Oral Communication Competency (OCC).*

**REL4190 SEM:**  
Prof. Hellweg  
This course focuses on problems and issues in religion and culture. Topics vary. Intended for advanced undergraduate students. Permission of the instructor required. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours. May be repeated within the same term.

**REL4203 Readings in Classical Hebrew Texts**  
Prof. Goff  
This course consists of intensive work on specific religious texts in classical Hebrew (ancient or medieval). Choice of texts vary. *May be repeated to a maximum of twelve semester hours.*  
*Prerequisite: HEB2230 or instructor permission.*

**REL4304 SEM:**  
Prof. Yu  
This course studies problems and issues in the history of religions. Topics vary. Intended for advanced undergraduate students. May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours.

**REL4359 SP Topics Asian Rel:**  
Prof. Cuevas  
This course focuses on selected topics and themes in the academic study of Asian religions with special emphasis on issues of methodology. Topics may include key theories in Asian studies, religion, philosophy, history, sociology, and anthropology intended to help students develop critical skills.

**REL4491 UG SEM: Religious Thought**  
Prof. Kelsay  
Topics vary. Intended for advanced undergraduate students. *May be repeated to a maximum of nine semester hours.* *Prerequisite: instructor permission.*

**REL4905 Directed Individual Study**

**REL4932 Honors Work Religion**  
Prof. Twiss
# GRADUATE COURSES

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